DISNEY'S

THE LION KING

A NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

44

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Grapevine

Hi there!

In this week's issue, Pumbaa and Timon report from Australia for the first time. Pumbaa's been learning some of the lingo. He says it's "beaut" and a "corker" which means he's having a good time, I think. Bonzer!

Kim

Write to:
Kim,
The Lion King,
PO Box 1,
Hastings, TN35 4TJ.

What do horses say when they finish their nosebags?

That's the last straw...

Tanya Johns, age 14

Sharlene Bridges, age 10

POUCHED PARENTS

PRESS CARD
Science & Technology Elephant

Marsupials are kinds of mammals. However, they are quite unlike other mammals in the way they give birth and raise their young. Young mammals are usually quite well-developed when they are born; some can even walk immediately. Young marsupials are very small and blind at birth. They feed on their mother's milk almost continuously for 1–2 months. In some marsupials, such as this Bennett's wallaby, this happens inside a pouch.

ALIEN SCARE

PRESS CARD
Stop Press Rhino

Reports are coming in that aliens from outer space have landed on Earth. It's a lot of nonsense! The rumour was started by someone who saw some sea water under a powerful microscope. What he saw were tiny plants and animals which drift in the open oceans. Together they are called plankton, and this acorn worm larva is just one of them. There is no need to be alarmed!

MYSTERY VANDALS

Last week I got a call to go and report on some wrecked trees. It was terrible. Branches had been snapped off and flung to the ground. There were leaves everywhere. "Who could have done this?" I thought. It could only have been a herd of wild and reckless elephants. Then Giraffe arrived. "What a storm we had last night," he said. "Winds of 100km an hour." I put my notepad away. "That's what I thought it was," I said.

PRESS CARD
Chuck Reporter Alligator Bird

Richard Garraway, age 9

Why are goldfish gold?

So they won't go rusty!

Nora Gibbons

WATCH OUT FOR

There are four lazy lizards lounging about in this magazine. Can you find them?

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FREE IN PART 45

Three press cards so that you can do your own reporting.

SIMBA'S WORLD

THEIR EYESIGHT IS SO POOR THAT THEY SOMETIMES BUMP INTO TREES AT NIGHT, BUT THEIR SENSE OF SMELL IS VERY GOOD AND THEIR HEARING IS EXCELLENT, TOO. THESE HELP THEM TO FIND THEIR FAVOURITE FOOD – TERMITES.

Aardvarks

Millions of years ago there were aardvarks in southern Europe, Turkey and Iran, but today they are only found in Africa, south of the Sahara. Because of their pig-like body shape and snout, and their habit of digging out termites and ants with their sharp front claws, some people have called them 'earthpigs' or 'antbears'. In fact they are neither pigs nor bears. Like springhares, they form a separate order – there are no other animals quite like them.

Aardvarks live in many areas of Africa, but they are rarely seen because they do not come out until it is dark. Also, they are widely spread out, because the adults spend most of the year alone.

Aardvarks are a bit bigger than badgers. They are stocky and covered with thick skin. Their tail is powerful and tapers down to a thin point. The hairs on the face, body and tail are short and brown; those on the legs are longer. The front legs end in four strong claws, the back ones in five.

WOW!

When the soil is reasonably soft, aardvarks can excavate a metre of new tunnel in just five minutes.

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Herds of grazers are good news for aardvarks, because the trampled grass and dung piles they leave behind attract lots of termites. When an aardvark breaks into a termite mound, it scatters many termites. After it has licked up a mealful, there are still plenty left for lizards, birds, ground squirrels and baboons.

◀SUNBATHING Aardvarks usually spend the whole day sheltering in their underground burrows. Sometimes, however, they sunbathe in front of the burrow, especially if the night has been cold.

DIGGING A HOME

Aardvarks can live almost anywhere there are termites, as long as the ground is not too rocky or hard. They also avoid marshy places, because the soil is waterlogged and their burrows would soon be flooded.

Aardvarks are expert tunnellers, excavating down into the soil at high speed using their powerful front claws. While they dig, they fold back their ears. A filter of hairs round the nostrils helps to stop the dust from flying up their nose. They kick out the loose soil with their back feet and also use their strong tail to push it above ground.

Their main burrow starts as one tunnel, about 40cm wide, and often branches into two or more after one or two metres. There is at least one main chamber, which is big enough for the aardvark to turn round in. This is where the aardvark rests and where the mother gives birth. The baby stays put for two weeks before it is allowed to follow the mother on her night-time forays.

◀DIG IT! Aardvarks dig two kinds of burrows: deep ones which become their main refuges, and shallow ones which they dig speedily when they need a short-term shelter.

FACT FILE

AARDVARK
Orycteropus afer

SIZE: It grows to about 120cm long.

RANGE: It lives in areas south of the Sahara where termites can be found, from savannahs to rainforests, except for rocky places or areas with hard soil.

DIET: It mainly eats termites and ants, but also takes the fruit of a particular gourd.

YOUNG: One.

FORAGING IN THE DARK

SIMBA SAYS

Aardvarks are so good at digging that they make burrows all over the place. Lots of other animals find their empty burrows really useful when they need to get away from predators or from bush fires or if they're looking for a new home. Guess which of these guys use them: bats, hares, warthogs, pythons, hyenas, hippos, lizards, jackals, porcupines, owls.

Before an aardvark ventures out for an evening's foraging, it usually pokes its head out of the entrance of its burrow and sniffs the air It can stay there for as long as ten minutes, sniffing for signs of danger If the coast is clear, it explodes out of the hole and runs for about 10m Then it stops, raises its ears and turns its head in every direction to check for danger once more. Finally it sets off, grunting softly, in search of termites and ants to eat

If the aardvark is lucky enough to find a colony foraging above ground, it can simply lick them up with its long, sticky tongue. Breaking into a sun-baked termite mound is a much more time-consuming job, but once the aardvark has made a hole it can poke its long muzzle inside. Then it can scoop up hundreds of termites with its 30cm-long tongue.

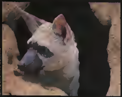
Even though an aardvark has teeth, it does not use them to chew its food The insects are ground up by its hard stomach muscles.

▼RETURN VISIT
Once an aardvark has dug through the wall of a termite mound and eaten a good meal, it will not visit the same mound for several days. By then the hole will be repaired, but the wall will still be soft and can be broken again easily.

Alan Root/Survival Anglia/OSF

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Aardvarks living in dry areas seem to love the fruit of a certain kind of gourd which provides them with welcome juice. Naturalists discovered that this gourd only grows in places where aardvarks are living – in fact, usually near the entrances of their burrows. The seeds which have passed through the stomach of an aardvark and are then deposited in their dung, germinate and then grow into healthy new plants.



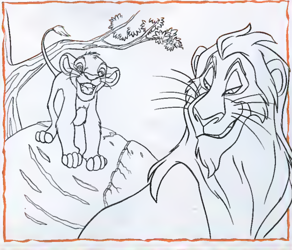
NEW LODGER
This aardwolf is peering out of a termite mound which has been hollowed out by an aardvark.

Answer to Simba's question: All except the hippo – he's a bit too bulky, don't you think?

THE
LION KING
COLOUR IT IN

Evil Scar

Scar lured Simba down into the gorge "Wait here Your father has a marvellous surprise for you," he lied "Just stay by these rocks " Simba was very excited. "Hey, Uncle Scar, will I like the surprise?" he called With an evil look in his eyes, Scar turned and said, "It's to die for!"



Simba Meets Silverback

Part 1

Dense forest rose from the lowland and clung, ever more thickly to a towering slope. From its secret depths came a noisy chorus of birds, monkeys and other unseen creatures. It was a shadowy world, very different from the open plains that Simba knew so well.

"Not very inviting, huh?" said Timon, standing beside his lion pal and Pumbaa.

The meerkat pointed to the thick, green canopy ahead.

"You've been, you've seen," he said. "But take a tip! Don't bungle, keep out of the jungle! It's chock-full of surprises – some of them very nasty!"

"Yeah! Just wallow in a mud-hollow, that's my motto!" snorted Pumbaa.

But Simba was silent, suddenly on the alert.

"Listen! Did you hear that noise?" he said, at last.

Pumbaa and Timon heard it, too – a slapping echo followed by a strange roar. It came from the forest. But Timon was smart enough to ignore it.

"I heard nothing," he replied, uneasily. "It's best you didn't either, Simba. Remember, curiosity never killed a cool-headed cat!"

The young lion's sinewy body remained tense for a moment longer. Then he relaxed. So did the meerkat, who sighed with relief.

"If you want forest, I'll show you forest, Simba," said Timon. "It's all part of learning about the wilderness. But this is as close as we go!"

"You worry too much," replied Simba, confident of his own growing strength. Though muscular and powerful, Simba was still young. He had a lot to learn. But with today's lesson over, Timon thought it was time to lighten up.

The meerkat found a stout stick and a round, sun-dried fruit. Then he stood on a flat rock. Tossing the makeshift ball into the air, Timon whacked it a swiping blow with the stick. The fruit rocketed off even better than he had dared to hope.

"Now I'm cooking! How's that for a baseball ace ball?" cried the happy meerkat. "If you are game, Simba, I'll show you how to play!"

"Simba is *big* game!" laughed Pumbaa. "Get it?"

"Let's get the ball," said Simba, eagerly springing off before Timon could stop him.

In fact, the dried fruit had landed at the very edge of the forest.

Simba thought the fruit would be easy to spot. But when, minutes later, he was still searching for it, Timon and Pumbaa reluctantly decided to help speed things up.

"The sooner we find it, the sooner we're out of here," grumbled Timon.

Next moment, further within the forest, the three pals glimpsed a movement. A small figure darted from cover, snatched up the dried fruit and vanished again.

"Hey! That's foul play!" yelled the warthog. "Bring back our ball!"

"Try asking nicely," smiled Simba. "Who was that little guy, anyway? I'd like to get a closer look at him!"

"He could bring big trouble!" warned Timon.

But Simba was already padding quickly off again. Timon shook his head and turned to Pumbaa.

"I always think of *you* as the bacon-brain round here!" he cried. "But I reckon that Simba's turning into a walking disaster area, too!"

The worried meerkat and the warthog followed as the young lion ran recklessly deeper into the forest. Suddenly, Simba saw the ball-snatcher. It was a baby gorilla, wide-eyed with startled surprise.

"Don't be scared," said Simba. "You can play, too!"

Just then, the undergrowth was swept aside as a mighty, fearsome form burst into view. Standing on his hind legs, the mega-sized male gorilla beat his chest with huge clenched fists. Then he made warning barks and a deep, throaty rumble. Simba recognized these as the sounds he had heard earlier.

"Uh-oh! I guess Pop gorilla doesn't take kindly to strangers," thought Simba, slowly back-stepping.

Timon and Pumbaa arrived – then froze in fear. At a safe distance, several smaller, younger gorillas peered from their leafy cover.

"Chill out, folks!" called Timon, bravely. "Your kid can keep our ball. We're good guys really!"

The gorilla leader, a broad silver-haired stripe across his back, stared threateningly, ready to charge. "Silverback better believe it," whispered Pumbaa, "or we're history!"

The baby gorilla's mother edged nervously forward, ready to snatch up her son. But the baby playfully threw the fruit towards Timon. With Silverback so close, the meerkat froze to the spot in fear.

The fruit rolled past him. The baby gorilla ignored his mother's outstretched arms to chase it again.

"Give me a break, kid!" muttered Timon. "There's a time and place for fun. And this is not it!"

Silverback seemed confused. He remained watchful, ready to protect his family group. By now Simba had eased away, hoping to avoid any dangerous confrontation or misunderstanding. Besides, the young lion knew he was no match against such a powerful opponent.

Then a sixth sense warned Simba of another danger. Something stalked, as yet unseen by the others.

Simba's keen hearing and sense of smell told him that a prowler was padding oh-so-lightly through the undergrowth, wearing an assassin's spotted coat that was perfectly camouflaged. As he chased after the fruit ball, the baby gorilla moved closer and closer to the hidden hunter, barely a pounce away from razor claws and terrible teeth.

But Simba sprang first. His lightning movement startled everyone, including Silverback. To the gorilla, it seemed the young lion was lunging at the baby. Silverback charged to defend him.

In the confusion, a solitary, snarling leopard fled, foiled by Simba's speed. Silverback saw the second cat and pulled up sharply.

Now he understood. But it was too late! Simba stumbled, accidentally bowling the gorilla baby headlong into a tangle of loose thicket. This tore free, trapping the startled young ape, before rolling over the steep side of a deep, concealed gully. Down, down hurtled the living bundle while a shocked Simba and others watched helplessly.

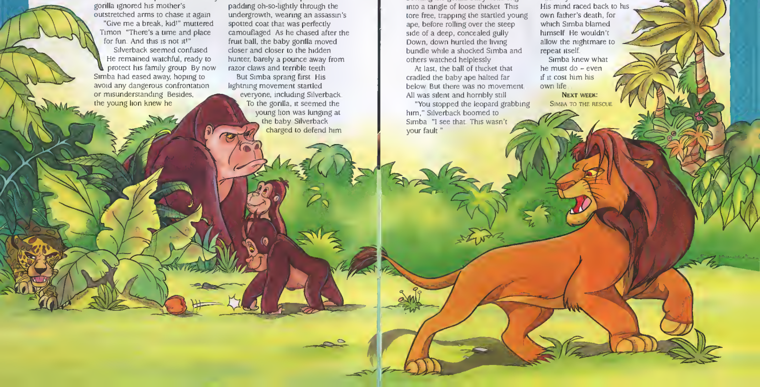
At last, the ball of thicket that cradled the baby ape halted far below. But there was no movement. All was silent and horribly still.

"You stopped the leopard grabbing him," Silverback boomed to Simba. "I see that. This wasn't your fault."

If only Simba could believe it. If only he'd not followed when Timon's ball was taken. Then the baby would have been safe. A great, guilty fear welled up within the young lion. The baby must live. If not, Simba had only himself to blame. His mind raced back to his own father's death, for which Simba blamed himself. He wouldn't allow the nightmare to repeat itself.

Simba knew what he must do – even if it cost him his own life.

NEXT WEEK:
SIMBA TO THE RESCUE



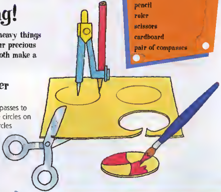
Lively Lifting!

There are lots of ways to lift heavy things without using too much of your precious energy. A pulley and a lever both make a little energy go a long way!

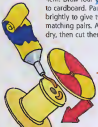
YOU WILL NEED

- 2 cotton reels
- ball of string
- 2 green garden sticks
- glue
- Blu-Tack or Plasticine
- carrier bag
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- cardboard
- pair of compasses

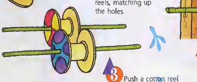
Pulley Power



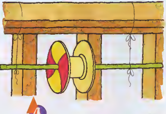
1 Open your pair of compasses to 4cm. Draw four 8cm-wide circles on to cardboard. Paint the circles brightly to give two matching pairs. Allow to dry, then cut them out.



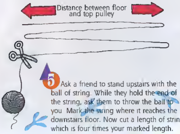
2 Use a pointed pencil to make a small hole in the centre of each cardboard circle. Glue one circle to each end of both cotton reels, matching up the holes.



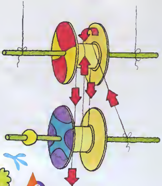
3 Push a cotton reel on to each stick. Slide the reels along to the middle of the sticks.



4 Cut two 50cm lengths of string. Tie the strings to one of the sticks, one on each side of the cotton reel. Tie the other ends of both strings firmly to the upstairs banister rail – or a handy branch of your tree camp!

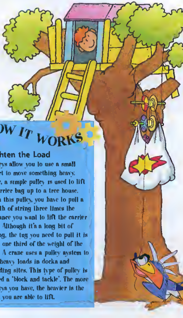

Distance between floor and top pulley

5 Ask a friend to stand upstairs with the ball of string. While they hold the end of the string, ask them to throw the ball to you. Mark the string where it reaches the downstairs floor. Now cut a length of string which is four times your marked length.



6 Tie the long string to the second stick, to one side of the reel. On the other side, press some Blu-Tack round the stick. Check that the reel can still move freely. Upstairs, get your friend to hold this stick just below the hanging stick. Now wind the long string over the top reel, down and round the lower reel, then up and over the top reel again, as shown. Let the remaining string fall down.

7 Go downstairs. Your friend should now let go of the lower stick. Holding the end of the long string, lower the pulley to the ground. Put the carrier bag handles either side of the pulley. Now pull steadily on the long string. You'll find that you can easily hoist the bag!



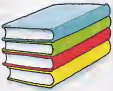
HOW IT WORKS

Lighten the Load

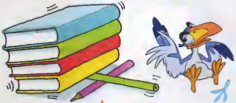
Pulleys allow you to use a small effort to move something heavy. Here, a simple pulley is used to lift a carrier bag up to a tree house. With this pulley, you have to pull a length of string three times the distance you want to lift the carrier bag. Although it's a long bit of string, the tug you need to pull it is only one third of the weight of the bag. A crane uses a pulley system to lift heavy loads in docks and building sites. This type of pulley is called a 'block and tackle'. The more pulleys you have, the heavier is the load you are able to lift.

Lever It Up!

Levering is another way of lifting something easily. You have probably used a lever without knowing how it works! Try this experiment to find out.



1. Place four books in a pile. Lift the bottom book so that you can place your little finger beneath it. Let the books down on to your finger. Now try to lift the books with your finger. It's almost impossible, isn't it?



2. Push about 4cm of the pointed end of a pencil under the bottom book, as shown. Now place another pencil under it, pushing it close to the pile of books.

3. Now it's time to use your little finger again! Press down with it on the end of the first pencil and try to lift the pile of books once more. What happens?

HOW IT WORKS

Levers

The two pencils form a simple machine. The top pencil, which you press, is called the 'lever'. The pencil it rests on is called the 'fulcrum'. The further away from the fulcrum you press down, the easier it is to lift whatever is on the other end. To test this, press down on the top pencil at a spot near the books. You won't be able to lift the books because there isn't enough 'leverage' (power). If you use a coin to get the lid off a paint pot, you are using a lever. A bottle opener is a lever, so is a crowbar and a spanner. All these levers are simple machines. They multiply the amount of force you use to lift something more easily.

These blowflies helped to get rid of the rotting carcase of an impala by gorging on its flesh when they were larvae. There are many different kinds of blowflies – some specialize in dealing with flesh that is in the shade, others with carcases that are lying out in the full sun. Without them the carcases would take much longer to rot and there would be many more harmful bacteria around.

Anthony Bannister NHPA

WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE

How can a creature that's smaller than your fingernail get rid of an impala carcase in just a few days? By laying thousands of eggs in it. These hatch into thousands of larvae which then gorge themselves on the rotting meat.

A wounded impala has just died in some long grass at the edge of the bush. No predators have spotted its body yet, but a small female blowfly, looking for a suitable place to lay her eggs, flies down to inspect the carcase. It's a perfect site for her eggs, so she lays a batch of 200 on the soft flesh of the open wound and flies off. Other females in the area have now picked up the smell and are landing on the carcase to lay their eggs, too.

In the heat of the midday sun, it doesn't take long for the eggs to hatch and by night-time hundreds of white larvae are pouring their digestive juices over the decaying flesh. This dissolves the flesh so that they can suck it up.

Over the next couple of days the blowfly larvae are joined by the larvae of other flies and by worms and wasps. Once the first larvae have eaten their fill, they burrow into the soil or hide inside a hollow bone and gradually change into flies. By the time they are ready to fly, the carcase is just a pile of bones.

PUMBAA & TIMON'S TRAVELS

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA IS A VAST, FLAT, SUNBURNT LAND. RARE PATCHES OF WATER OCCUR LIKE ISLANDS IN A SEA OF SAND AND SCRUB. BEYOND IT, IN A REAL SEA CALLED THE PACIFIC, THERE ARE ISLANDS OF SAND AND PALM TREES.

Koalas, from Australia, give birth to just one infant. It rides on its mother's back after leaving the pouch.

Butterfly fish have long snouts. They use them to probe for food among the coral.

This region includes New Guinea, Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. These were once part of a southern super-continent, but they drifted off on their own millions of years ago. Then there are the thousands of tiny islands scattered across the Pacific like confetti. Many are volcanic – they were formed from molten rock. Others were formed as sediments built up on coral reefs.

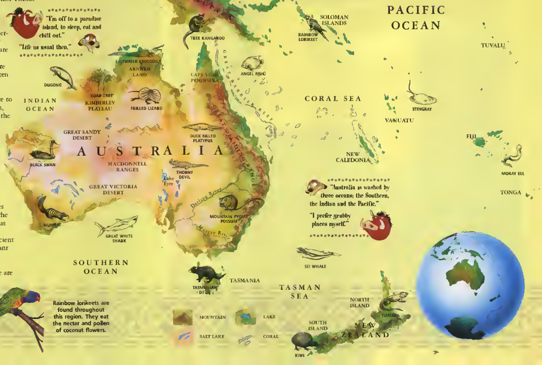
The climate varies greatly from place to place. Many of the islands have a warm, moist climate. Australia is like this in the north and down the east coast, but in the centre it is very hot and dry. New Zealand has a temperate climate; it is neither very hot nor very cold. The weather is changeable and often windy.

Australia and New Guinea are home to a large number of marsupials (mammals which grow their young in pouches), including koalas and kangaroos, and monotremes (mammals which lay eggs), of which the duck-billed platypus is the most famous example.

On New Zealand there are some ancient reptiles, several flightless birds and giant insects called wetas.

The more remote Pacific islands are home to few large mammals, but there are many colourful birds and reptiles.

The Australian honey possum is one of the few mammals in the world which eats only nectar and pollen.



Rainbow lorikeets are found throughout this region. They eat the nectar and pollen of coconut flowers.

"Marsupials grow their young in pouches."

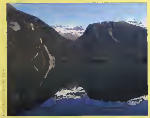
"If I had one, I could put my lunch in it."

DESERTS

Most of mainland Australia is made up of grass and scrubland with scattered eucalyptus, or gum, trees, but there are five real deserts. Here acacia trees replace the gums. For thousands of miles, the land is flat. Only in the centre is this flatness broken by the Macdonnell ranges and the mysterious rocky outcrops of Uluru and the Olgas.

FORESTS

Australia has tropical rainforest in the north-east, with a great variety of trees, ferns and creepers. This looks like rainforest you'd see anywhere, except that there are possums in the trees instead of monkeys. Gum trees of many different shapes and sizes cover much of Australia. In New Zealand, there are forests of conifers and broad-leaved trees, such as the southern beech. Some of the Pacific islands have tropical forests.



▲LAKES ON HIGH
The western side of South Island, New Zealand, has many glaciers and high mountain lakes.

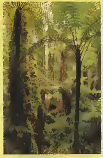
►THE ROCK
Uluru, or Ayers Rock, rises up out of the flat, sun-burnt plains of central Australia.

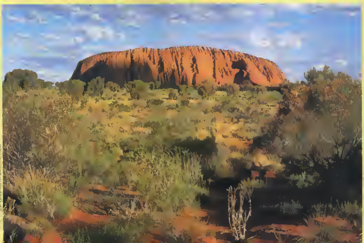
MOUNTAINS

Many of the islands are mountainous, with jagged peaks of volcanic rock and deep valleys carved by rivers. Australia is one of the flattest places in the world, but running down the eastern side is the Great Dividing Range. New Zealand, Tasmania and New Guinea are very mountainous. The Alps of New Zealand have 27 peaks over 3000 metres and many glaciers creeping slowly to the sea.

◄HUGE HOPPERS
At 1.5m tall, the red kangaroo is one of the largest marsupials.

▼ANCIENT PLANTS
The tree ferns of New Zealand have existed for 250 million years.





The tuatara from New Zealand is very ancient. It is the last survivor of a group of reptiles that became extinct 200 million years ago.

RIVERS AND LAKES

Australia has several large lakes. Many are dry for most of the year, but they fill up after the rains, when water is brought by rivers from higher areas. The largest river is the Murray in the south-east. Mountainous New Zealand and Tasmania have many fast-flowing rivers and high, mountain lakes.

CORAL REEFS

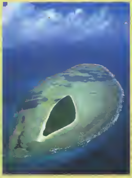
Coral grows in the warm, shallow seas around islands. There are many different kinds of coral, growing in all shapes and colours. A dazzling variety of small fish swim among them. There are also sea urchins, giant clams, starfish, eels, turtles and sharks.

◄HOT WATER
New Zealand has many geysers and pools of boiling water. The water is heated from below.

▼CORAL COLOUR
Many of the Pacific islands are ringed by coral reefs. The reefs are made up of millions of tiny coral animals.

BEACHES

The coastline of Australia is varied and spectacular. There are sandy beaches, limestone cliffs, and also mangrove swamps in the north. In Tasmania there are rugged rocks formed from molten magma long ago. The coral islands of the Pacific are fringed with beaches of soft, golden sand. Some of the volcanic islands have beaches of black sand. This is made from volcanic rock worn down by time and tides.



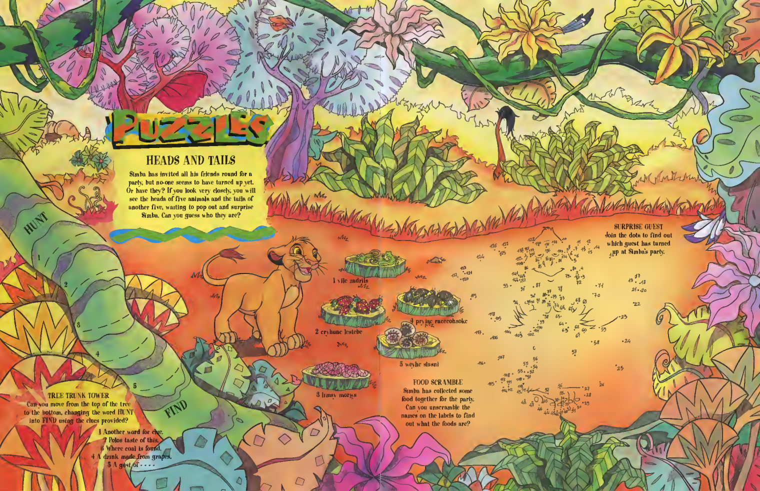
Unlike most reptiles, green turtles are vegetarian. They eat mainly seaweed.

◄TINY ISLANDS
The Pacific is dotted with coral islands like this one on the Great Barrier Reef.

PUZZLES

HEADS AND TAILS

Simba has invited all his friends round for a party, but no-one seems to have turned up yet. Or have they? If you look very closely, you will see the heads of five animals and the tails of another five, waiting to pop out and surprise Simba. Can you guess who they are?



TREE TRUNK TOWER

Can you move from the top of the tree to the bottom, changing the word HUNT into FIND using the clues provided?

1 Another word for clue.
2 Polos taste of this.
3 Where coal is found.
4 A drink made from grapes.
5 A gust of . . . .

FOOD SCRAMBLE

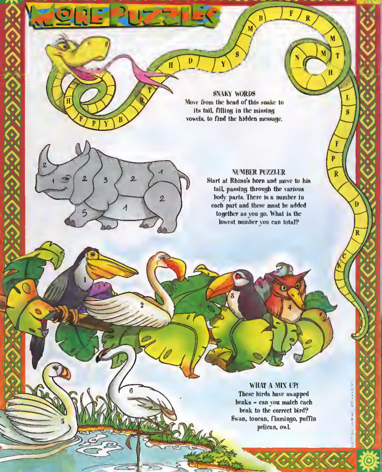
Simba has collected some food together for the party. Can you unscramble the names on the labels to find out what the foods are?

1 vile zadrils
2 cryhunc lestebe
3 limsy morws
4 pryisc racecohsoke
5 weyhc slasni

SURPRISE GUEST

Join the dots to find out which guest has turned up at Simba's party.

MORE PUZZLES



SNAKY WORDS

Move from the head of this snake to its tail, filling in the missing vowels, to find the hidden message.

NUMBER PUZZLER

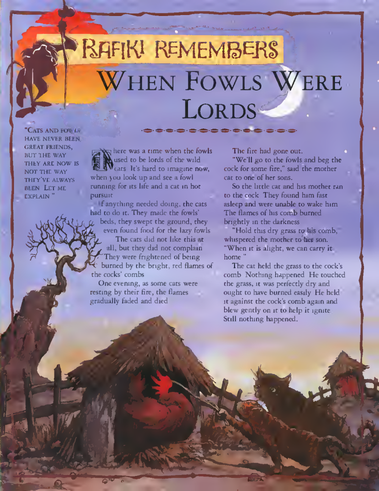
Start at Rhino's horn and move to his tail, passing through the various body parts. There is a number in each part and these must be added together as you go. What is the lowest number you can total?

WHAT A MIX UP!

These birds have swapped beaks – can you match each beak to the correct bird? Swan, toucan, flamingo, puffin pelican, owl.

RAFIKI REMEMBERS

WHEN FOWLS WERE LORDS



"CATS AND FOWLS HAVE NEVER BEEN GREAT FRIENDS, BUT THE WAY THEY ARE NOW IS NOT THE WAY THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN. LET ME EXPLAIN."

There was a time when the fowls used to be lords of the wild cats. It's hard to imagine now, when you look up and see a fowl running for its life and a cat in hot pursuit.

If anything needed doing, the cats had to do it. They made the fowls' beds, they swept the ground, they even found food for the lazy fowls.

The cats did not like this at all, but they did not complain. They were frightened of being burned by the bright, red flames of the cocks' combs.

One evening, as some cats were resting by their fire, the flames gradually faded and died.

The fire had gone out.

"We'll go to the fowls and beg the cock for some fire," said the mother cat to one of her sons.

So the little cat and his mother ran to the cock. They found him fast asleep and were unable to wake him. The flames of his comb burned brightly in the darkness.

"Hold this dry grass to his comb," whispered the mother to her son. "When it is alight, we can carry it home."

The cat held the grass to the cock's comb. Nothing happened. He touched the grass, it was perfectly dry and ought to have burned easily. He held it against the cock's comb again and blew gently on it to help it ignite. Still nothing happened.

"It's not even smoking," he told his mother.

"That's odd," said his mother, and she held out a paw towards the red comb. No heat seemed to be coming from it. She touched it and to her surprise it was quite cold. The comb looked like a flame, but in fact it was just skin.

Just then the cock awoke.

"What's this?" he said angrily, but the mother cat interrupted him.

"That's enough from you, you fraud," she said. "You'd better scram, or there'll be trouble." And the fowl, knowing that his secret had been discovered, and thinking it wiser to be elsewhere, did scram.

And fowls have been 'scramming' ever since, whenever they see a cat or any other animal who knows exactly what a cock's comb is made of.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

HEADS AND TAILS
Heads: Rhino's tusk, a buffalo's horns, Giraffe's jaw, Elephant's ear and Flamingo's beak.
Tails: Crocodile's tail, Pumbaa's tail, Rafiki's tail, Zazu's tail and Ostrich's tail feathers.
Food Scramble: 1 live lizards, 2 crunchy beetles, 3 slimy worms, 4 crispy cockroaches, 5 chewy snails.
Tree Trunk Tower: Hint, mint, mine, wine, wind
Surprise Guest: Gorilla
Snaky Words: Happy Birthday Simba from the animals of Pride Rock.
Number Puzzler: 11
What a Mix Up: 1 a toucan with a pelican's beak, 2 a pelican with a flamingo's beak, 3 a puffin with a toucan's beak, 4 an owl with a swan's beak, 5 a swan with a puffin's beak, 6 a flamingo with an owl's beak

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